SECOND BRIGADE

BLACKHORSE HOOFBEATS

"THE BLACKHORSE BRIGADE"

ISSUE # 4 | LZ ENGLISH | 12 MARCH 1967

SPECIAL BINH DINH ISSUE

THE CAV'S BATTLE

THE BATTLE FOR 210,000 SOULS HAS BEEN WAGING SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER 13TH. THE END IS NOT IN SIGHT. AT STAKE ARE THREE OF THE HEAVIEST POPULATED DISTRICTS OF BINH DINH PROVENCE---HOAI NHON (BONG SON), HOAI AN, AND PHU MY. BINH DINH HAS THE GREATEST POPULATION (850,000) OF ALL PROVENCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM. IT IS ALSO THE LARGEST IN SIZE (9,422 square kilometers).

The bulk of the people live on the coastal plain from the port of Qui Nhon along Highway 1 to the border of Quang Ngai Provence. This strip produces the economic necessities of rice, coconut, fish and salt. Southeastern Binh Dinh Provence, from Qui Nhon to the district seat of Phu Cat, lies under the watchful control of the Republic of Korea's elite Capitol Division. There the people have found reasonable peace and security.

Most of the population from Phu Cat to the Quang Ngai Border, however, have been under VC and NVA domination for over three years. This is a huge area---70 kilometers long and 40 kilometers wide.

The masters have been the 3d NVA Division. This division is made up of the 2d VC and the 18th and 22d NVA Regiments. The regiments are augmented by the E210 and E2B local force battalions of VC. Their control over the people is exercised through the infrastructure. In other days, in other wars, the infrastruct-

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BRIGADE AT EASE-ALMOST

Action involving the battalions of the Second Brigade during the past two weeks was scarce. The 2/12th Cav remained at An Khe continuing their mission of defending Camp Radcliff and Highway 19.

The 1/5th Cav, after thorough patrolling on the Bong Son Plain, returned to An Khe on 3 March for a standdown that lasted through the 8th. On the 9th, they joined the 2/5th Cav in the area south of Bong Son as all four companies air assaulted into the northern Tigor area. During the first day of the operation they killed one VC and captured a ChiCom submachine gun.

The 2/5th Cav had been assigned as the

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BATTLE

(CON'T From Page 1)

ure was referred to as the "Fifth Column." This Fifth Column, hidden among the people, provides the taxes, the food, the recruits, the hideaways and the intelligence to the main force units. They also transmit the propaganda from the main force to the people.

MAIN FORCES

If the main forces can be kept from the people, if the infrastructure can be destroyed, and if good government can be substituted, communism will fail.

The battle of Binh Dinh is between the 3d NVA Division and the US Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division. The NVA Division has orders to stay in Binh Dinh. The Cavalry has orders to crush the main forces. One of them has to fail.

The Cavalry has been in and out of this important sector of the country before. In their first year in South Vietnam they darted in and out of battlefields within a hundred mile wide band from the South China Sea to the Cambodian border. In that year their mission was to keep the enemy off balance--foil his almost successful attempt to completely control the Central Highlands. The mission is now to stay, to defeat the main forces, to root out the infrastructure; and to provide the shield for the Republic of Vietnam's Revolutionary Developement Program.

AGAINST 3D NVA DIVISION

The 3d NVA Division, General Truc, utilized three secure bases from which he could control the coastal population: the Soui Ca Valley, the Crow's Foot (Kim Son Valley) and the An Lao Valley. These secluded valleys provided concealment, numerous routes of escape, completely dominated population, excellent water sources, very fertile rice growing areas, controlled entrances, a complete lack of government control, and cunningly secreted hiding places for rice, weapons, ammunition and medical supplies.

So far, the battle for Binh Dinh has consisted of our operations which first began on 13 September 1966----- Thayer I, Irving, Thayer II, and Pershing. Other than in name, there are few differences. Those operations, and those which will probably follow, all have had the same objectives. There have been daily contacts and a series of pitched battles, some of which passed unnoticed by the world at large. If the overall results are totaled, however, the struggle became an epic. Here are some of the U.S. results of the period between Sept 13 and January 13--one third of a year's fighting.

STATISTICS

1. NVA Killed: 667
2. VC Killed: 1412
3. Individual Weapons Capt: 541
4. Crew-Served Weapons Capt: 55
5. Tons of Rice Secured: 559
6. Tons of Salt Secured: 534
7. Prisoners of War: 317
8. Mines and Grenades Capt: 5513
9. Civil Defendents: 1431
10. The Soui Ca Valley and the Crow's Foot were completely evacuated for a time. The cattle have been returned to Phu My and Hoai An Districts. All caches have been discovered and removed. All shelters have been destroyed. Occupation forces are preventing the return of enemy forces. In the Soui Ca Valley, a propaganda office, several massive arms caches, and the Binh Dinh Province VC Headquarters were revealed.
11. From a narrow secured zone along Highway 1, Phu My District Headquarters is increasing its control to the sea and around the Nui Micu Mountains. Army engineers have opened roads through this area, markets have opened again, acts of terror have become a thing of the past, infrastructure members have either been turned in or have surrendered and the people

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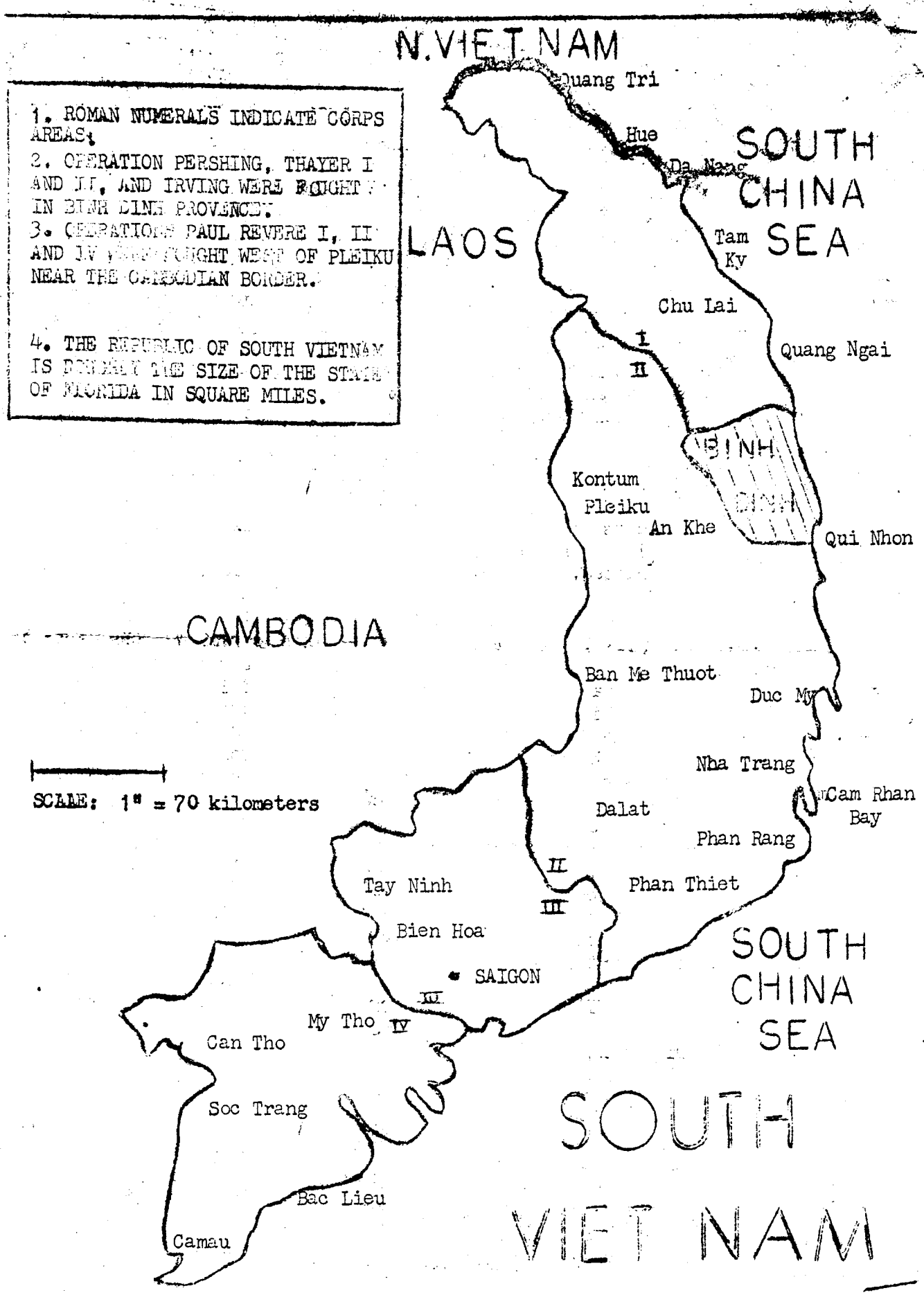


1. ROMAN NUMERALS INDICATE CORPS AREAS.
2. OPERATION PERSHING, THAYER I AND II, AND IRVING WERE FOUGHT IN BINH DINH PROVENCE.
3. OPERATIONS PAUL REVERE I, II AND IV WERE FOUGHT WEST OF PLEIKU NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER.

4. THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM IS ROUGHLY THE SIZE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA IN SQUARE MILES.

BINH DINH (CON'T From Page 2)

have changed from apathy to enthusiasm. During the battle of Binh Dinh, 14,000 refugees from outlying hamlets have reported to Phu My stating they are tired of living under the VC's domination. They are presently living in semi-permanent refugee centers until their own localities come under government control. To weed out the infrastructure, Phu My officials and men of the 1st Cav Division processed 7,500 males of military age of which 1431 were classed as civil defendents by accusation or interrogation.

12. Now military vehicles travel without interference from Qui Nhon to Bong Son.

13. During the U.S. Operation Irving, ROK and ARVN forces, operating smoothly in conjunction with 1st Cavalry men, but on their own operations, swept through the Phu My Mountains and the area directly north, killing over 1,300 of the enemy.

14. As the 3d Division releases its grip and contracts toward the north, ROK and ARVN forces have expanded their area of control toward the north.

15. Hoai An District Headquarters in early September, was isolated in the middle of a VC controlled area. Today, the pressure and isolation are part of the past.

EVERYONE READS
— HOOFBEATS —

What of the 3d NVA Division?

Its 2d Regiment, after a long devious journey, mortared the principal Cav base at LZ Hammond on September 23d. One of its battalions paid for this in the Crazy Horse area on October 17th. Other than these two ventures, the 2d has evaded the massive hunt.

The 18th Regiment attacked the 41st ARVN Regiment in the Cresent area on September 23d. The ARVN's held and the 18th retreated leaving over 272 dead. ARVN losses were minimal. The reinforced 7th battalion, 18th Regiment, was decimated on Oct. 2nd, on the coast just north of Vinh Nuot Ngot when it was surrounded by a Cav battalion in the village of Hoa Hoi. Other contacts have reduced the 18th to such a state that the unit has split into 2 to 10 man starving groups which are fleeing and hiding through the entire coastal region.

Two battalions of the 22d NVA Regiment hit a small Cav infantry and artillery force at LZ Bird on the night of December 27th. The vastly outnumbered friendly force suffered heavy losses, but held. The 1st Cav officially counts 66 enemy dead by body count alone as a result of the defense and the pursuit, but prisoner interrogation indicates the probable tally is much greater.

For the first time the 1st Cav has put three brigades into the field. The major enemy objective for 1967 is the destruction of the 1st Cavalry. These factors indicate a violent showdown in the near future. You and your unit are playing a direct role in this massive struggle.

Pershing is another extension of this battle. We have been fighting the 22d Regiment in this area and have almost wiped one of its battalion out. It is useless as an effective fighting unit, but still has its contacts in the local VC infrastructure.

To date, since the beginning of Operation Thayer I on 13 September 66 the 1st Cavalry Division has killed a total of over 3,400 VC and NVA.

USMA WANTS YOU

The current expansion of the US Military Academy has created a need for outstanding candidates.

Army enlisted men are urged to apply for appointments to West Point through the US Military Academy Preparatory School.

Prior testing is not required for acceptence since the applicant is selected solely on the basis of his records and the recommendation of his unit commander.

Applications should be submitted before June 30th through the unit commander to the Commandant, U.S. M.A. Preparatory School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060.

The Fort Bolvoir school conducts a rigorous program of academic physical, and military preparation to assist the candidates in competing for appointments.

For those selected for appointment, additional intensive academic preparation is then provided to ensure that the new cadets joining the "Long Gray Line" are fully qualified to undertake the demanding education program at West Point.

Complete details and requirements for acceptence under this program are contained in Army Regulation 350-55, February 16, 1965.

1/77TH - FIRE POWER

Bravo Battery of the 1/77th Artillery in support of the Cav's 2d Brigade has once again proved its mission of being able to provide instant artillery support to the men of the 2d Brigade even under the most adverse conditions.

During the evening of 24 February 1967, Bravo was called to march order and moved to a position north of Bong Son during Operation Pershing in support of the ground infantry during the hours of darkness. Men and howitzers were air lifted by Chinooks at 2010 hours, and at 2045, 35 minutes later, the first shell was fired in support of the 2d Brigade.

Bravo's night occupation of an LZ was the first time an airmobile battery had moved into an LZ and set up at night. In order to accomplish such a task, all personnel had tobe thoroughly aware of their individual responsibilities, especially light and noise discipline.

The officers and men of B Battery have proved their worthiness once again, by performing another first for the First Team.

The 2d Brigade salutes all the batteries of the 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery---A, B and C. LTC Arthur Kelly commands the 1/77th Artillery.

BRIGADE ACTIVITIES (CON'T FROM P. 1)
1st Cav Division Reserve on 4 March. Two companies moved out of the Bong Son Plain to LZ English while the other two, C and D stayed in the area.

On 7 March, a battalion from the 3d Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division became heavily engaged with an unknown-sized enemy force and the 2/5th Cav was sent to help out. In the battle that followed, 77 enemy were killed, 16 by companies from the 2/5th Cav.

Both the 1/5th Cav and the 2/5th Cav continue search and destroy missions in the Tiger area at this time.

ENEMY CASUALTIES

	1 Jan-10 Feb Thayer II	11 Feb-7 Mar Pershing	Total
KIA	309	172	481
POW	97	231	348
CD	42	253	295
HOI CHANH	15	13	28
TOTAL	463	688	1,152

FIRST ON THE FIRST TEAM

1/5 TRAINSMEN HURL BACK CONG

Cooks, mule drivers and supply personnel of the 1/5th Cav trains became riflemen in a hurry on the morning of 7 February as they battled off a determined bid by an unknown sized enemy force to overrun the airstrip at LZ English.

At approximately 0200 hrs on a dark, moonless night, the landing zone came under heavy enemy attack from mortars and automatic weapons fire, the attackers coming from two different areas east of LZ English. SFC Leonard Judd of Harker Heights, Texas, realizing an attack had begun, quickly alerted the trains area and within minutes the 1/5th Cav's perimeter was manned and returning the enemy fire. The perimeter, manned by cooks, motorpool personnel, and supply men, along with a four man mortar crew from Company C began to fight off the enemy from three sides.

Mortar crew under the command of SP/4 Richard Maxim of Whittier, Calif., immediately placed a heavy volume of mortar fire on one enemy mortar position, and with the Bn XO, MAJ Benjamin Abramowitz of Overland Park, Kansas, acting as forward observer, the enemy position was silenced. Then the men began to place effective fire on a small arms position until CPT Edward Anderson of Ft. Benning, Georgia raced up to direct fire on a second mortar position. This position was also put out of action by the accurate mortar fire.

Meanwhile, the trains personnel continued their heavy base of fire causing the enemy many casualties and forcing him to withdraw. SP/4 Vincent Pace of Warren, Pa. provided illumination by hand flares throughout the 45-minute battle, enabling the men on the perimeter to zero in on many enemy targets.

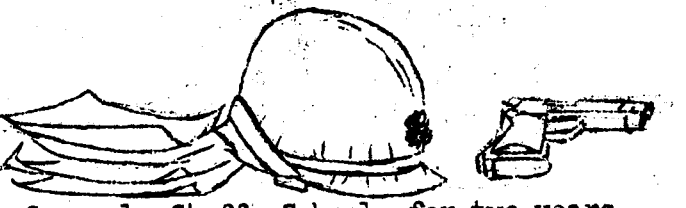
Although portions of LZ English and LZ Dog were hit extensively by the enemy mortar fire, the 1/5th Cav sustained only one minor injury and no loss of supplies or materiel.

Due to their extremely rapid response to the critical situation, and their precise coordination, the 1/5th Cav trains personnel are responsible for driving off the attacking enemy while keeping casualties and equipment losses to a minimum.

NEW DEPUTY CO FOR THE 2D BDE

The 2d Brigade welcomes a new Deputy Brigade Commander. He is LTC Edward M. Pierce who arrived in Vietnam on 9 February 1967 and officially took over his new duties as DCO on 14 February 1967.

LTC Pierce comes to us from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where he served this past year as Secretary General Staff to the Commanding General, and as an instructor in the Command and



General Staff School for two years prior to that. Before being assigned to Ft. Leavenworth, Pierce served as S-3 for the 187th Test Battle Group at Ft. Bragg, helping to develop the Airmobile Concept.

Born in Indiana, Pa., LTC Pierce graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1950. His first assignment was with the 504th Abn Inf Regiment of the 82d Div. He served in Korea with the 187th RCT and the 2d Inf Div. as a platoon leader, company commander and staff officer.

LTC Pierce who was stationed in Belgrade, Yugoslavia for two years, has attended the Infantry Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff School and has worked on the Masters Program.

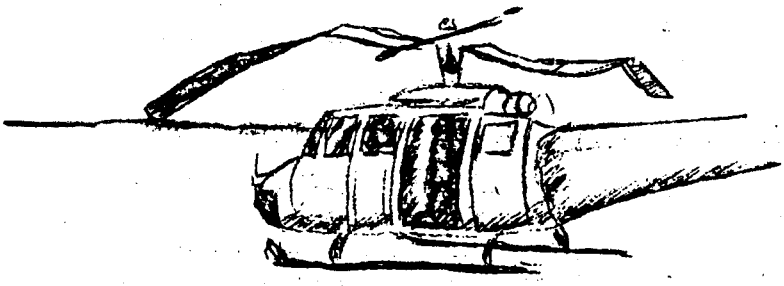
His wife and four children, one boy and three girls, reside in Leavenworth, Kansas.

BEETLE BAILEY WARNS AVIATORS VIA SNOOPY

"Tie Thy Blade Down, Troope" proclaims a ruined UH-1D blade in front of the 2d Brigade's Aviation Platoon Operations tent at LZ English during Operation Pershing.

The decorated blade was the victim of an accident while the Brigade of the Blackhorse was at LZ Uplift during Operation Thayer II. The accident involving an H-13 and a Huey was caused when the untied blade of the Huey spun around in the wind and hit the 13 which was landing.

This incident caused MAJ Thomas G. Hines, Section Leader, to commission SP/4 Lee D. "Beetle" Bailey, the Michelangelo of the Aviation Section to paint the blade as a reminder to his aviators.



SP/4 Bailey, letting his artistic tendencies take hold, painted the Charles Schultz character "Snoopy", terror of the Red Baron, riding a surf board and clutching a joy stick, and beneath, the comment, "Tie Thy Blade Down, Troope". A warning to the aviators to stop accidents due to unsecured blades.

VETERANS NOTE!

NEW ACT PASSED

This article covers benefits a veteran of Vietnam gets for his tour over here from the Veteran's Readjustment Benefits Action of 1966."

Question: Who is eligible for these benefits in home and farm loans, education, governmental job preference and hospital care? Answer: 1) Any veteran who either served on active duty for more than 180 days, any part of which occured after 31 January 1955, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable; 2) One who was discharged or released for a service disability; or 3) A member of the Armed Forces who has served at least two years on an active status, as long as he continues on active duty without a break in service.

The education benefits are as follows:

	NO DEPENDENTS	1 DEP.	2 DEP.
Full Time	$100	$125	$150
3/4 Time	75	95	115
1/2 Time	50	65	75
1/4 Time	25	--	--

These benefits are per month of the school year, while attending college.

The loan provisions are closely patterned after those of the Korean G.I. Bill. Lenders making a home or farm loan to veterans are guaranteed by the Veteran's Administration against loss of up to 60% of the loan with a minimum guarantee of up to $7,500. Direct loans to the home and farm borrowers are also extended.

Job counselling and placement are offered by local State Employment Officers working in coordination with the U.S. Labor Dept.

Veterans of Vietnam will also enjoy Federal Employment preference. Preference will include waivers of age, height, weight, and retention of rights during reduction in force.

Other benefits exist which due to space cannot be mentiondd. There is a lot wd haven't written about the benefits we did mention. Check into it when you get the chance - further articles in this publication will elaborate on individual Cold War benefits in the future.

The choice is yours - whether you decide to stay on active duty or return to civilian life. THE OPPORTUNITY IS THERE.

ORDER YOUR OWN 1ST CAV DIV SCRAPBOOK - FREE!!!

— SEE COUPON BELOW —

"Scrapbooks", a series of reproductions of newspaper accounts of major combat actions in Vietnam are now available on request by Vietnam veterans returning to the States.

Designed for "fighting men too busy to keep their own", monthly issues are being published for units including the 1st Cavalry Division.

Individuals may receive copies of each issue covering their period of service in Vietnam by writing to the U.S. Army Command Information Unit, Washington, D.C. 20315.

Requests must include name, rank, service number, former organization (division, brigade), stateside address and ZIP code.

It would be a good idea to use the form below when sending for your scrapbook. Just clip it out (or tear it out neatly) and put it in an envelope with the above address.

It will be sent to your home upon rotation. Allow time for it to be printed up.

Where it says "unit" on the form, indicate company and battalion. For instance; A Co, 2/5th Cav. You don't have to put Brigade or Division. They are already on the form.

You do not have to use the form if you don't want to. You can enclose all the desired information in an envelope and send it right to the address youself.

For best results, send the coupon in right around your DEROS time. Save the coupon in your wallet until then.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara says the Army's training of aircraft pilots during the fiscal year 1967 will be increased from the planned 3,700 to more than 7,000.

If you wear the Army Green you can save money. According to new Bureau of Internal Revenue ruling, the cost and maintainance of all uniforms are now deductible as non-taxable income. This deduction can be made only if you fill out Income Tax Form 1040 (the long form).

2D BRIGADE (CUT ON DOTTED LINE) 1ST CAV DIV

PRINT CLEARLY

PLEASE SEND ME THE 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION "SCRAPBOOKS". I CAME TO VIETNAM AND THE 2D BRIGADE OF THE 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION ON _____.
I WILL RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES AND MY HOME ON _____.

NAME: _____

RANK: _____ SERVICE NUMBER: _____

UNIT: _____

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